DIGITAL STILL CAMERA WITH
REMAINING PICTURE COUNT INDICATION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A digital still camera includes an image sensor mounted in a housing for receiving transmitted light and generating output signals representative of an image of an object or a scene of interest. A processing circuit is mounted in the housing and is connected to the image sensor for processing the output signals from the image sensor. A control circuit is connected to the processing circuit for successively generating a plurality of image files corresponding to a plurality of images and storing the image files in a fixed or removable memory in accordance with a selected one of a plurality of picture modes including a plurality of picture resolutions, a plurality of data compression levels and combinations of the same. The control circuit determines a remaining picture count after each image file is stored in the memory based on a plurality of look up tables each corresponding to one of the plurality of picture modes. The control circuit initially determines the remaining picture count based on a capacity of the memory before any image files have been stored in the memory and thereafter the control circuit decrements the remaining picture count after each image file has been stored in the memory by a predetermined number corresponding to the size of the image file just stored. A display, audio device or some other mechanism is mounted in the camera housing for indicating the remaining picture count to a user. In a first alternate embodiment a predetermined decrement number is not automatically associated with a given image file size in a selected picture mode. Instead a remaining free space, determined after each picture is taken, is searched through a lookup table to find a picture count associated with its address. In a second alternate embodiment the picture count is reduced by a rough number until the free space goes below a predetermined memory capacity, such as eight megabytes, at which time the picture count is determined according to the previous look up table searching method.